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Desmodium Illinoense, Gray.

Crataegus mollis (Torr. & Gray) Scheele.

Osmorrhiza Claytoni, (Michx.) B. S. P.

Convolvulus arvensis, L.

Seymeria macrophylla, Nutt.

Anychia Canadensis (L.) B. S. P.

Asprella Hystrix (L.) Willd.

DOANE COLLEGE, CRETE, January 2, 1892.

The Validity of the Oldest Specific Name.

The method adopted by Mr. Sudworth (see Vol. xviii. 289) appears to result from a logical application of the law of priority, and will probably in time find acceptance among botanists, as it is already doing among zoologists. If the identical name for both genus and species is to be avoided, it is the genus that must go—and yet I presume nobody will propose to abolish *Nasturtium*, *Ustilago*, *Opuntia*, etc., for this reason! Some years ago I brought this question forward in a short article dealing with nomenclature (*Science Gossip*, 1888, p. 276), and since then have noted down cases of the kind when I have come across them. The following are additional to those given by Mr. Sudworth :

Present Name.	Linnean Name.	Correct Name by Priority.
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i> , R. Br.	<i>Sisymbrium nasturtium</i> .	<i>Nasturtium nasturtium</i> (L.).
<i>Guazuma tomentosa</i> , H.B.K.	<i>Theobroma guazuma</i> .	<i>Guazuma guazuma</i> (L.).
<i>Pimenta officinalis</i> , Lindl.	<i>Myrtus pimenta</i> .	<i>Pimenta pimenta</i> (L.).
<i>Cinnamomum Zeylanicum</i> , Breyen.	<i>Laurus cinnamomum</i> .	<i>Cinnamomum cinnamomum</i> (L.).
<i>Persea gratissima</i> , G.	<i>Laurus persea</i> .	<i>Persea persea</i> (L.).
<i>Lagenaria vulgaris</i> , Sw.	<i>Cucurbita lagenaria</i> .	<i>Lagenaria lagenaria</i> (L.).
<i>Manihot utilissima</i> , Pohl.	<i>Jatropha manihot</i> .	<i>Manihot Manihot</i> (L.).
<i>Ustilago segetum</i> (Bull.).	<i>Chaos ustilago</i> .	<i>Ustilago ustilago</i> (L.).

Probably many other cases might be found if a diligent search were made.

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

Institute of Jamaica, Jamaica, W. I., Nov. 17th, 1891.

Botanical Notes.

A Singular Rudbeckia hirta. Prof. Halsted's note in the October BULLETIN, entitled "A Double-Headed *Rudbeckia*," called my attention to a specimen I collected in a meadow on the Gap Hills, Lancaster Co., Pa., June 14, 1889. On examination, I find the plant to be a very curious freak. It consists of two stems ascending from a short cylindrical root-stalk. From